

NJ Wildlife Updates

For Licensing Agents and Fish & Wildlife Constituents

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Director's Message



Summer is here, school is out and everyone is looking forward to summer days with fun-filled experiences. Get outside and discover the abundance of fish and wildlife-related recreational opportunities waiting for New Jersey kids and adults.

New Jersey offers many fabulous fishing opportunities from the Delaware River to fishing in the Atlantic Ocean. To find out where to go start with our website, www.njfishandwildlife.com. Our most popular publication, "Places to Fish," has been updated to assist anglers in finding a place to fish and includes the "Delaware River Boat Access Sites" providing a list of boat access sites along the Delaware River. We also have a directory there of New Jersey party and charter boats for the saltwater angler.

Spring and summer is also a great time for watching wildlife and we have plenty to watch in New Jersey. The "New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide" will help you experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats at 87 of the State's best wildlife viewing sites. Whether camping in the north, in the Pines or staying at the beach, this guide will tell you where to go and what you can see. Another great resource is our "Wild Places and Open Spaces Map" which provides information on Division wildlife management areas, state parks and forests. The map details more than 700,000 acres of public open spaces with an accompanying grid of outdoor activities for each site.

Visit our website and click on the product link for information on any of these great resources. There's plenty to do and see out there so get outside and have a summer to remember.

Bob McDowell, Director

2002-03 DEER HUNTING PERMITS

Last year, the Division initiated a trial program that made deer permits available through license agents. Based on the positive comments received from the hunting public, the trial program went well and was a popular customer service improvement. Consequently, the Division will continue to offer deer permits through license agents for the upcoming 2002-2003 deer seasons.

Permits will be issued through a lottery for only eight Special Area zones this year (Zones 38, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 64 and 67). Military Special Area zones will be issued directly through the military installations. Consequently, the "Deer Permit Supplement" that contained the mail-in lottery applications will not be printed this year. The mail-in application specifically for the Special Area zones and all the deer information formerly in the supplement will be in the Hunting Issue of the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest. The Digest will be available in early August. Lottery applications can also be obtained on the Division website.

Bow, Shotgun and Muzzleloader permits will be available at certain license agents starting Saturday, September 7, 2002. Unlike last year, permits will be available at license agents until the last day of the deer-hunting season, which is February 15, 2003.

Permit quotas for most zones are higher than the number of permits issued for previous seasons in many zones. Therefore, permits for most zones will be available at license agents throughout the entire season. Any Special Area zone permits not issued through the lottery will be available at Division offices.

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New Jersey's Nineteenth Waterfowl Stamp and Print, Third in the Landmark Series

The Division's Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee is proud to announce the third print in the Landmark Series "Colors of Fall—Wood Ducks at the Water Gap." This year's artist, Jim Hautman, was also a three-time federal stamp competition winner. At the age of 25, Jim became the youngest artist in history to win the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp Contest. His second win in 1995 not only took first prize but set a new record by receiving a perfect scoring in the final judging as well as the distinguished People's Choice Award. Jim captured top honors for the third time receiving a perfect judge's score again in 1999.

The eldest Hautman brother, Joe, created the first print in the series. His work featured canvasbacks flying past New Jersey's and America's most recognized landmark, the Statue of Liberty. Bob Hautman created last year's stamp and print set featuring tundra swans at Sedge Island on Barnegat Bay.

These three brothers are the only siblings to ever win the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp Competition and since 1990, have won it five times! The Hautmans are fast emerging as America's foremost wildlife artists. All three brothers have received numerous honors and awards, including dominating many state and national duck stamp competitions. At last count, the three brothers have seen their art featured on more than 34 state and federal stamps, and their unique family talent was mentioned in the major motion picture *Fargo*.

New Jersey, through an act of the State Legislature, began annually requiring a waterfowl-hunting stamp in 1984. The Division of Fish and Wildlife administers the program for the purpose of purchasing wetlands for waterfowl habitat. Proceeds from the sale of New Jersey's duck stamps and prints have totaled over

\$3,800,000 since 1984, all to acquire wetlands for waterfowl habitat and public use. To date, over 13,000 acres of waterfowl habitat have been purchased or donated to the program.

This year's artwork depicts a pair of wood ducks at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The almost 70,000-acre National Park Service property is located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania along 40 miles of the Delaware River. The area is rich in both cultural and natural history: the ridges and river valley contain fascinating geological features, beautiful streams and waterfalls, a diversity of plants and wildlife and a rich history of past occupants and cultures.



The recreation area was originally planned as land bordering the proposed Tocks Island Reservoir. Early planning, management and land acquisitions were accomplished amid much controversy over the proposed dam project. In 1978, Congress designated the section of the Delaware River within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In 1992, the Tocks Island Dam Project was officially de-authorized.

For more information on how to purchase a print, collector duck stamp, or the souvenir stamp card, please send a self-addressed stamped (\$0.37), business-size envelope to the Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee, Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400. Or come visit us on the web at www.njfishandwildlife.com by clicking on the product section. The important thing to remember is all profits go to preservation of habitat! Buy a stamp or framed print and SAVE AN ACRE!

FIELD GUIDE AND CD AVAILABLE

The Division's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) has produced and is offering a "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey" and a related CD, *Calls of New Jersey Frogs and Toads*. Written by David M. Golden, ENSP biologist, and author Vicki Schwartz, the field guide contains 72 detailed descriptions of reptiles and amphibians that occur in New Jersey. With more than 100 full-color pictures and 72 distribution maps, this spiral-bound, 89-page guide will be useful for amateurs and experts alike.

The CD has 38 tracks—both training tracks and tracks on which you can test your skill—of 16 different species. Including shipping and handling, the field guide is available for \$10 and the CD is available for \$10. Or save money by buying both for \$18.

To order either the field guide and/or the CD, send a check or money order with the appropriate amount payable to Conserve Wildlife Foundation. Send to Attn: Field Guide/CD, Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400.

VISIT THE PEQUEST TROUT HATCHERY & NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION CENTER

The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is located nine miles west of Hackettstown on Route 46 in scenic Warren County. The facility is open to the public throughout the year, with the exception of holidays, free of charge. Hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Visitors may view the video "Hooked on Nature" that shows the entire trout raising operation from egg collection to stocking. Also awaiting visitors are interactive exhibits, displays, free literature, picnic grounds, hiking trails and a self-guided tour of the hatchery. In addition, the 4,100 acres Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is open to fishing, hunting, bird watching and hiking.

Schools and civic organizations with a minimum of 15 participants in grades 2 and up may schedule a group program between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The basic program consists of a video about the hatchery followed by a guided tour. Natural resource trail hikes, focusing on wildlife habitat and natural resources are

offered.

April through October the center offers fishing education classes to ages 8 and older with a group size of 15 to 20 people. Classes cover safety, ethics, technique and equipment followed by a fishing experience. Groups interested in scheduling a program after July (the calendar is full until then) should contact the center at 908-637-4125.

There are picnic facilities on the grounds, but no vending machines or indoor/sheltered eating facilities. Participants will be outdoors for part of the program and should dress accordingly. Programs are conducted rain or shine and there are no rain dates.

The Division also offers public programs about fish, wildlife and other natural resources and presented as part of a series of weekend and occasional evening programs. Visit the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a schedule of public programs and other information.

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN WORKSHOP

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will conduct a weekend workshop for designed for women as part of the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (B.O.W.) program on September 6-8 at the Golden Inn and Wetlands Institute in Cape May County. Since the B.O.W. program began in the fall of 1995, more than 1,000 participants have attended weekend workshops, and as many have attended one day, topic-specific events.

New Jersey's B.O.W. program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor activities. Workshops are offered in 44 states and 8 Canadian provinces.

September's workshop promises to be a rich experience for participants who may choose 4 courses from among the following: bay fishing, crabbing & clamming, deep sea fishing, surf fishing, saltwater fly-fishing, bay kayaking, birding, Great Egg Harbor ecotour, coastal ecology, orienteering, outdoor photography, basic firearms, operating a small motor boat, and deer and waterfowl hunting. Each of the 3.5-hour sessions includes hands-on participation and interactive lectures designed to enable the novice outdoorswoman to gain comfort and confidence in the

outdoors. The instructors are experts in their field. The workshop is limited to 100 participants and is expected to fill early. Registration forms for this and other fall workshops will be available in mid-June.

Other fall workshops include surf fishing, saltwater fly-fishing and pheasant hunting. For a complete list of B.O.W. workshops, registration forms, or to join the mailing list for more information, visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.



GOVERNOR'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Eleventh Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held on Sunday, October 6, at Island Beach State Park in Ocean County. The event is co-sponsored by the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and the Sportfishing Promotion Council of America.

By allowing families (especially youngsters) an opportunity to experience first-hand the enjoyment of surf fishing, the ultimate goal of the tournament is to foster a life-long commitment to marine conservation and the sport. Funds generated from these events have funded construction of an access ramp for disabled

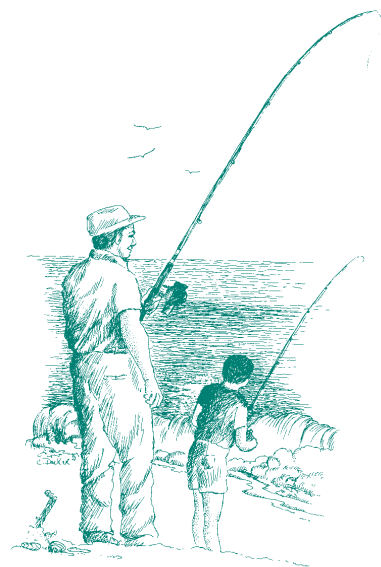
saltwater anglers at Island Beach State Park and continue to provide surf fishing access, marine education programs, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment and specialized wheelchairs that provide the disabled and elderly with beach access.

The event has generated a tremendous amount of interest since it

premiered in 1992 and has remained successful due to the excellent turnout of both visitors and participants (nearly 9,000 over the years).

Anglers compete from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. After judging has been completed and winners determined, an awards ceremony is held. The Governor along with the DEP Commissioner and the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife present prizes to the winners, as well as the coveted Governor's Cup for the grand prize.

Applications will be available in July at sporting good stores, our website www.njfishandwildlife.com or by calling 609-984-0521.



AMERICAN KESTRELS

Scientists with the Division's Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics are testing American Kestrels for exposure to the West Nile Virus and also testing them to detect Chlordane poisoning. Kestrels are small falcons less than 1 foot long about the size of a robin. They are the only small hawk-like bird with a reddish (rufous) tail and back. The male has a blue wing and the female's is rufous. Your assistance is needed by notifying us at 908-735-6398 to report locations of any dead American Kestrels. Photos of Kestrels can be found on our website at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/owh/home.htm#wnv3.

SKILLFUL ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM

The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the Record Fish listing. It honors the many anglers who catch both freshwater and marine fish that aren't of record size but are impressive and worthy of recognition. Qualifying anglers receive a signed certificate attesting to their achievement along with a bronze pin to be worn on a fishing hat, jacket, etc. Each year, special recognition is given to the anglers who caught the largest fish in each of the species categories.

The application form is available for download in PDF format on our website www.njfishandwildlife.com. To receive a brochure about the program via US mail, send a stamped (\$0.37), self-addressed business size envelope to Skillful Angler Awards Program, Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

"HOOK-A-WINNER" PROGRAM

Every spring since 1998, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has jaw tagged more than 1,000 brook trout for pre-season stocking in New Jersey waters.

If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish send your name, address, fish tag number and location of catch to the "Hook-A-Winner" Program, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863. In recognition of your catch, you will be mailed a certificate and award patch. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited and entered into their drawing for one of 12 rod and reel combinations to be held during the celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week in June.

MAJOR CHANGE IN HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Division's Hunter Education Program is now offered as a modified home-study video based course, with one-day testing and field sessions conducted at centralized teaching locations throughout the state. The Division recognized that course scheduling, as previously conducted, was difficult to fit into the hectic schedules of today's lifestyles. In response, we developed a program that is more convenient and at the same time produces a more advanced hunter ready to meet the serious responsibilities facing all New Jersey hunters.

The Hunter Education Unit has developed a videotape, manual and workbook series designed to cover shotgun, muzzleloading/modern rifle and bow and arrow courses. The video covers information currently provided in the traditional courses while adding hunting scenarios designed to test the students split second decision-making ability that all responsible hunters must have. Videotapes and workbooks are available at license agents and Division field offices. A schedule of testing facilities and field session dates for the entire state and year are available at these locations and on the Division's web

site at www.njfishandwildlife.com. Practice exams are also available on our website for the students to use after completing their video, manual and workbook exercises.

Home study allows students to learn the classroom material at their own pace, at home, and select the location and date which best suits their schedule for a one-day course for archery, shotgun, rifle/muzzleloader or all three classes (if they are prepared to do so). During the one-day field session students are placed with an instructor to complete an extensive field walk and mandatory live-fire session. A review of the home study material and homework will be offered before the day concludes with a mandatory written exam.

The Division is extremely proud that our program is continually recognized as one of the top programs in the country. Individuals interested in becoming an instructor with this new Hunter Education Program can download an application at www.njfishandwildlife.com or call **877-2HUNTJ** for further information. The future of hunting in New Jersey remains hunter education.

"PLACES TO FISH" PUBLICATION UPDATED

The Division's "Places to Fish" publication has been updated and is now available to the public. The publication is designed to assist anglers in finding a place to fish and to give a general idea of what facilities and species of game and panfish occur at each location. There are over 4,100 freshwater lakes, ponds, impoundments and reservoirs, one acre or greater, in New Jersey. These amount to over 61,000 acres. The list is not 100 percent complete and will never be 100 percent accurate, as conditions change constantly. The publication only lists those waters where a good population of desirable species exists and where public access is assured. The publication is available by visiting our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com. For a print version, send a self-addressed, stamped (\$0.57) business-size envelope to "Places to Fish", Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, New Jersey 07863.

The publication also includes the "Delaware River Boat Access Sites" providing a list of boat access sites

along the Delaware River. Information provided includes the names of the facility and location, telephone number, access type, any fee, GPS coordinates and a "special notes" section. The boat access site list and map are also provided in the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest 2002 Freshwater Fishing issue. Anglers can obtain a copy of the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest by visiting their local sporting goods store or visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com for an "on-line" version of the Digest.

The Division also offers the public a "List of Accessible Fishing Sites." It is a list of more than 50 New Jersey fishing sites that are accessible to people who have difficulty with mobility. An on-line version is available on our website www.njfishandwildlife.com. The print version is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped (\$0.37) business-size envelope to: ACCESS, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, New Jersey 07863.

"TAKE A KID FISHING"

The Division recently expanded existing programs and consolidated them under a new "TAKE A KID FISHING" Program. This program is multi-faceted dealing with aquatic ecology, recreational fishing programs, teaching kids life skills and a lot more. Encompassed under the "TAKE A KID FISHING" Program umbrella are five individual programs that are utilized to meet the needs of various user groups. These include:

- Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs Program (HOFNOD)
- Fishing Derby Program
- Harbor Estuary/Urban Fishing Program
- The Fish Our Parks Program
- Project Aquatic WILD Program

The Division's Hooked On Fishing Program is a 20-week, one hour a week program that provides a positive alternative to the use of drugs and alcohol, develops life skills, introduces students to basic aquatic biology and provides them with a recreational skill that can last a lifetime. The Hooked On Fishing Program, when combined with the current DARE Program, produces a comprehensive two-pronged program that follows students from grade one through grade nine. Numerous volunteer instructors are being trained to provide classes throughout the state. The contact person for the Hooked On Fishing Program is Conservation Officer Wayne Tonnesson (609-259-2120).

The Division's Children's Fishing Derby Program provides sunfish, bass, catfish, crappies and bullheads to communities who are sponsoring a derby in their area. Division representatives stock the pond and provide information to the kids and their families about the fish, fishing and the Division. Groups interested in fish stocking for their organized derby can contact Rosemarie Greg (908-637-4173).

The Harbor Estuary/Urban Fishing Program is conducted in conjunction with the Division of Watershed Management. The program is geared towards children to create a greater awareness of their watershed and instill a sense of stewardship toward local natural resources by utilizing their local natural resources. The Division of Watershed Management is responsible for conducting the classroom portion of the program. The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors

Program Americorps members provide assistance in the program. Division of Fish and Wildlife personnel lead the fishing day events and are responsible for coordinating volunteers to assist in the program.

Contact Bureau Chief Kerry Kirk-Pflugh (609-633-7020) at the Raritan Bureau in the Division of Watershed Management for further information about the Urban Fishing Program. Additional information about the program can be found by visiting their website at www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/urban-fishing.htm.

The Fish in Our Parks Program is being developed in cooperation with the Division of Parks and Forestry and is designed to provide information and education along with fishing access to lakes and streams located within our state park system. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will provide fish stocking and technical support for this program. Park Rangers will be providing Hooked On Fishing classes as part of this program. Contact Chief Ranger Robert T. Lyness, Jr. with the Division of Parks and Forestry at 609-292-6539 for further information about the Fish in Our Parks Program.

The Division's Project Aquatic WILD Program goal is to assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior and constructive actions concerning fish and wildlife and the environment upon which life depends. Project Aquatic WILD activity guides contain

hands-on activities that teachers use with their K-12 students. The activities take students from awareness to action. Activities are designed to be incorporated into most major subject areas, strengthening basic skills while teaching about wildlife. Many of the activities can be used to meet state core curriculum standards. The activities are supplementary and do not displace any subject. Project Aquatic WILD is an award-winning program, thoroughly tested and evaluated. Activity guides are only available through workshops. Contact Sue Canale with the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 609-748-4347 to schedule a workshop or visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com/pwinfo.htm.

The combined impact of all the "TAKE A KID FISHING" elements will be an increased awareness and stewardship of our aquatic resources by New Jersey youths who will hopefully also develop a lifelong enjoyment of fishing.

